26. (Amended) Injection molding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each actuating assembly comprises a plurality of actuators that flank the injection nozzles that the actuators actuate.

R1

27. (Amended) Injection molding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the actuator of each actuating assembly is centrally located among the injection nozzles that the actuator actuates.

29. (Amended) Injection molding apparatus according to claim 28, comprising a plurality of actuators driving each common linkage element, wherein the actuators of each actuating assembly flank the injection nozzles that the actuators actuate.

R2

36. (Amended) Injection molding apparatus comprising:

an array of injection nozzles, each nozzle having a melt channel and a valve pin movable within the melt channel, each valve pin having a driven portion and a tip end that controls melt flow through a mold gate;

a melt distribution manifold in fluid communication with the array of injection nozzles; and

R3

an actuating assembly for displacing the valve pins of the array of injection nozzles, comprising at least one actuator and a common linkage element driven by the actuator and linked to the driven portions of all of the valve pins of the array of injection nozzles to move the valve pins in unison, wherein the common linkage element moves along the same direction as the valve pins and the at least one actuator is located under the manifold.

39. 37 (Amended) Injection molding apparatus comprising:

an array of injection nozzles, each nozzle having a melt channel and a valve pin movable within the melt channel, each valve pin having a driven portion and a tip end that controls melt flow through a mold gate;

a melt distribution manifold in fluid communication with the array of injection nozzles; and

an actuating assembly for displacing the valve pins of the array of injection nozzles, comprising at least one actuator and a common linkage element driven by the actuator and linked to the driven portions of all of the valve pins of the array of injection nozzles to move the valve pins in unison, wherein the at least one actuator is located under the manifold and in-between said injection nozzles.